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Conservation
Service

Montana

Basin Outlook Report

March 1, 2000



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Basin Outlook Reports

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How forecasts are made

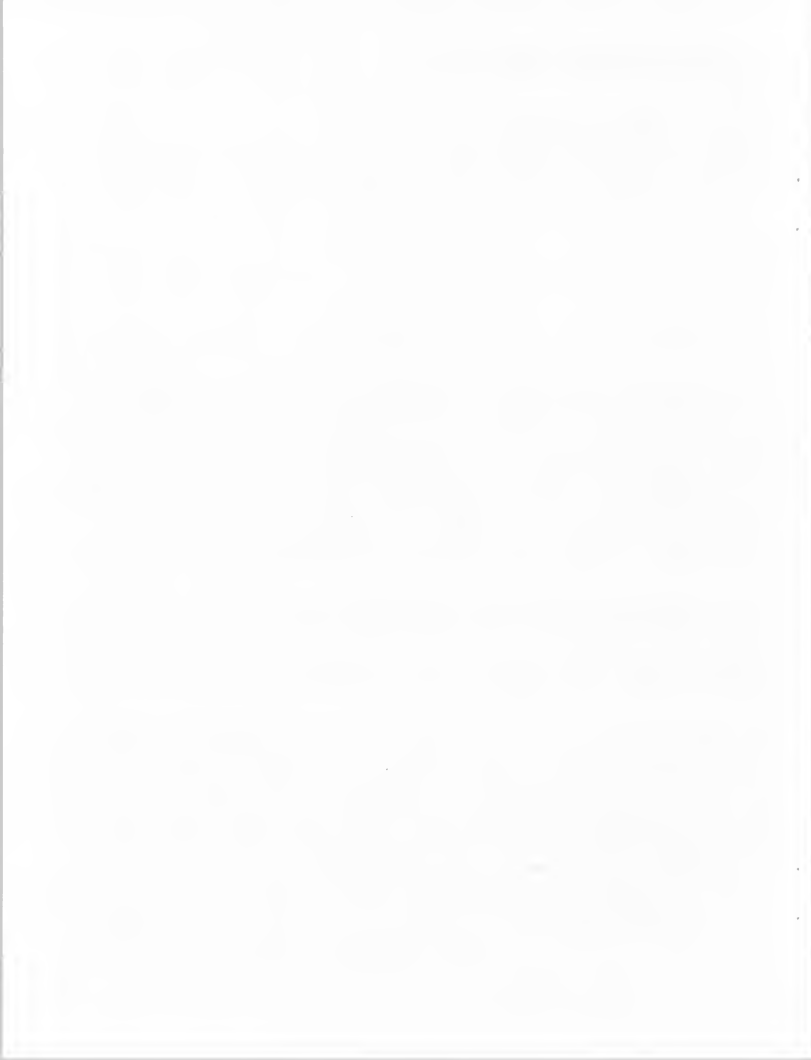
Most of the annual streamflow in the Western United States originates as snowfall that has accumulated high in the mountains during winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Predictions are based on careful measurements of snow water equivalent at selected index points. Precipitation, temperature, soil moisture and antecedent streamflow data are combined with snowpack data to prepare runoff forecasts. Streamflow forecasts are coordinated by Natural Resources Conservation Service and National Weather Service hydrologists. This report presents a comprehensive picture of water supply conditions for areas dependent upon surface runoff. It includes selected streamflow forecasts, summarized snowpack and precipitation data, reservoir storage data, and narratives describing current conditions.

Snowpack data are obtained by using a combination of manual and automated SNOTEL measurement methods. Manual readings of snow depth and water equivalent are taken at locations called snow courses on a monthly or semi-monthly schedule during the winter. In addition, snow water equivalent, precipitation and temperature are monitored on a daily basis and transmitted via meteor burst telemetry to central data collection facilities. Both monthly and daily data are used to project snowmelt runoff.

Forecast uncertainty originates from two sources: (1) uncertainty of future hydrologic and climatic conditions, and (2) error in the forecasting procedure. To express the uncertainty in the most probable forecast, four additional forecasts are provided. The actual streamflow can be expected to exceed the most probable forecast 50% of the time. Similarly, the actual streamflow volume can be expected to exceed the 90% forecast volume 90% of the time. The same is true for the 70%, 30%, and 10% forecasts. Generally, the 90% and 70% forecasts reflect drier than normal hydrologic and climatic conditions; the 30% and 10% forecasts reflect wetter than normal conditions. As the forecast season progresses, a greater portion of the future hydrologic and climatic uncertainty will become known and the additional forecasts will move closer to the most probable forecast.

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Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service)
Bozeman, Montana

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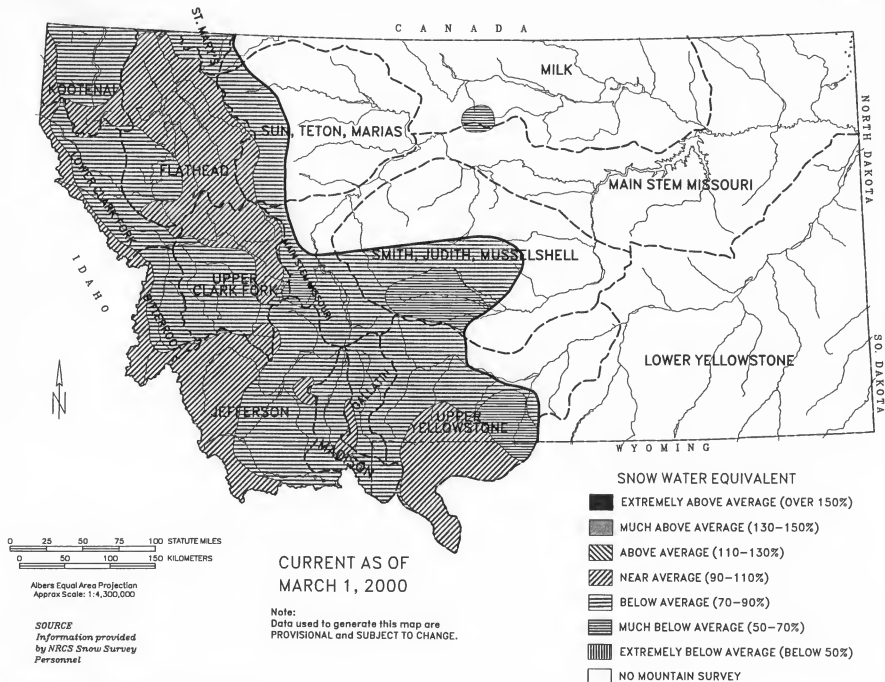
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MOUNTAIN SNOWWATER EQUIVALENT FOR MONTANA



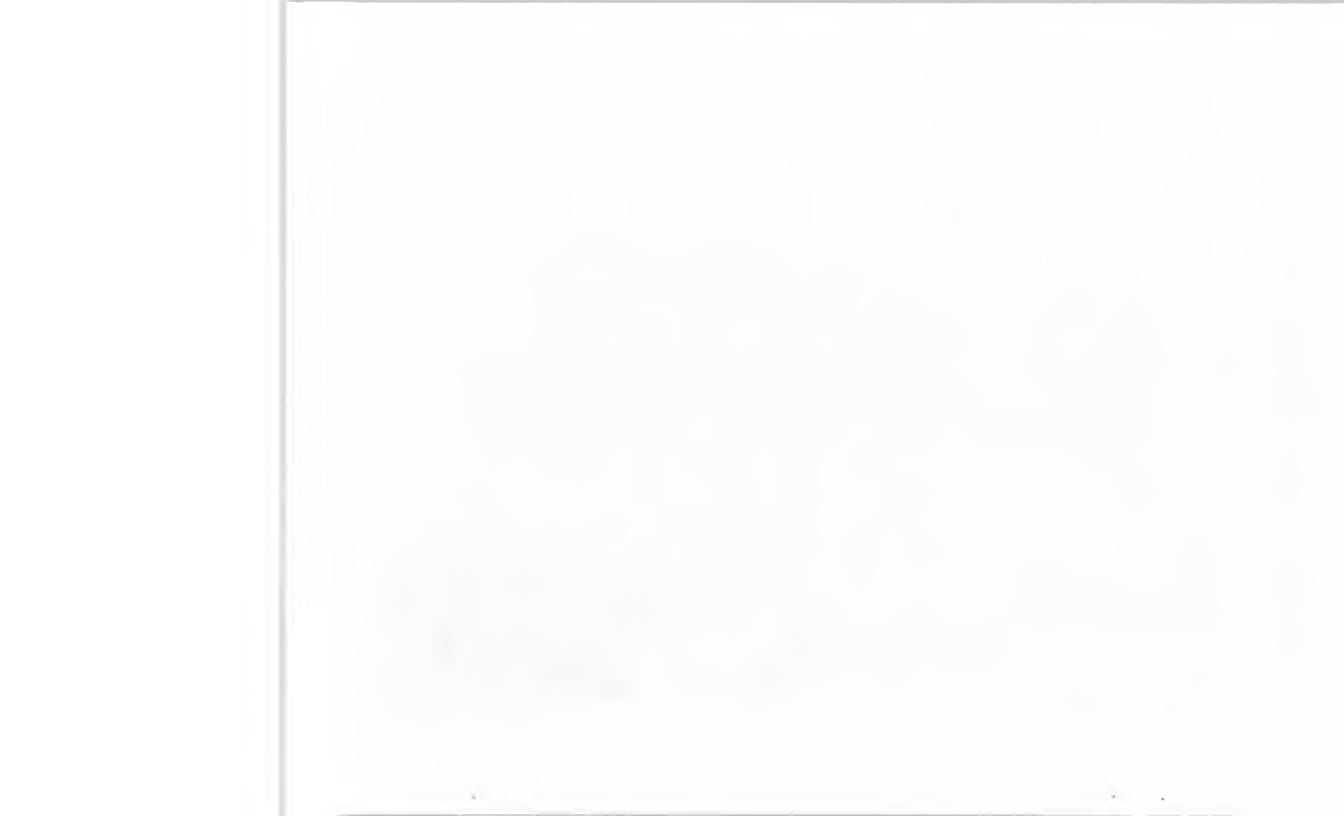


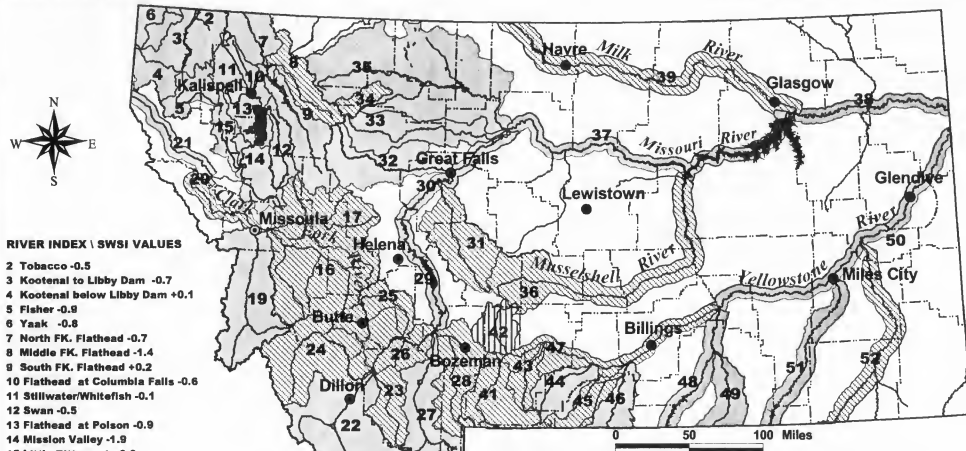
STREAM FLOW PROSPECTS FOR MONTANA

Spring and Summer Period

Spring and Summer Period

MARCH 2000





Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) Values

Current as of
February 1, 2000

SWSI VALUES

- Extremely Dry -4.0 to -3.0
- Moderately Dry -2.9 to -2.0
- Slightly Dry -1.9 to -1.0
- Near Average -0.9 to 0.9
- Slightly Wet 1.0 to 1.9
- Moderately Wet 2.0 to 2.9
- Extremely Wet 3.0 to 4.0
- SWSI Not Applicable

NOTE: Data used to generate
this map are PROVISIONAL and
SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

USDA **NRCS** Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Montana

MONTANA STATE PLANE PROJECTION



SUMMARY OF MONTANA SNOTEL AND SNOW COURSE DATA

MARCH 2000

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-90
ABE LINCOLN	4440	2/24/00	43	15.2	26.8	--
ABUNDANCE LAKE	8800	2/28/00	51	15.3	20.1	16.8
ALBRO LAKE PILLOW	8300	3/01/00	---	9.7	18.3	16.4
AMBROSE	6480	2/28/00	39	9.0	14.6	11.0
ASHLEY LAKE	4000	2/29/00	16	3.9	4.8	6.1
ARCH FALLS	7350	2/28/00	36	8.2	9.8	9.8
ASHLEY DIVIDE	4820	2/29/00	20	5.2	6.6	6.4
BADGER PASS PILLOW	6900	3/01/00	---	24.2	39.3	30.8
BANFIELD MTN PILLOW	5600	3/01/00	---	15.3	26.1	17.4
BAREE MIDWAY	4600	2/25/00	72	25.5	43.7	30.5
BAREE TRAIL	3800	2/25/00	32	9.6	13.5	8.6
BARKER LAKES PILLOW	8250	3/01/00	---	7.4	13.0	12.2
BASIN CREEK PILLOW	7180	3/01/00	---	5.3	7.5	6.5
BASSOO PEAK	5150	3/01/00	29	8.4	10.7	10.0
BEAGLE SPGS PILLOW	8850	3/01/00	---	6.8	11.4	6.8
BEAR BASIN	8150	2/29/00	59	16.8	18.0	17.6
BEAVER CREEK PILLOW	7850	3/01/00	---	13.7	18.4	14.8
BERRY MEADOW	7000	2/25/00	20	4.0	6.8	6.5
BIG SNOWY	7150	2/29/00	47	13.6	14.6	17.3
BISSON CREEK PILLOW	4920	3/01/00	---	8.2	8.5	9.7
BLACK BEAR PILLOW	7950	3/01/00	---	29.7	46.5	31.7
BLACK MOUNTAIN	7750	3/01/00	---	12.8E	11.2	12.2
BLACK PINE PILLOW	7100	3/01/00	---	8.9	13.4	10.5
BLACKTAIL	5650	2/29/00	40	12.1	15.6	12.6
BLOODY DICK PILLOW	7550	3/01/00	---	10.7	13.3	10.7
BLUE LAKE	5900	2/25/00	52	17.7	26.7	22.0
BOTS SOTS	7750	2/24/00	22	6.8	4.4	6.3
BOULDER MTN PILLOW	7950	3/01/00	---	13.0	21.0	17.0
BOX CANYON PILLOW	6700	3/01/00	---	8.8	11.2	8.8
BOXELDER CREEK	5100	2/25/00	23	5.0	8.8	7.4
BRACKETT CR PILLOW	7320	3/01/00	---	15.1	21.0	16.7
BRANHAM LAKES	8850	3/01/00	70	24.2	24.3	24.5
BRUSH CREEK TIMBER	5000	3/01/00	24	6.3	7.6	8.6
BULL MOUNTAIN	6600	2/28/00	18	5.8	7.8	5.2
CABIN CREEK	5200	2/26/00	29	7.3	6.3	6.0
CALL ROAD	8050	2/29/00	33	7.2	8.7	9.4
CALVERT CR PILLOW	6430	3/01/00	---	8.6	10.6	8.0
CAMP SENIA	7890	2/24/00	16	4.4	3.2	4.6
CARROT BASIN PILLOW	9000	3/01/00	---	20.1	29.7	22.6
CARTER CREEK	7400	2/28/00	22	4.8	5.2	3.9
CHESSMAN RESERVOIR	6200	2/24/00	6	1.4	3.2	3.4
CHICKEN CREEK	4060	2/29/00	43	15.6	16.7	14.3
CLOVER MDW PILLOW	8800	3/01/00	---	12.3	16.6	14.9

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-90
COLE CREEK PILLOW	7850	3/01/00	---	8.0	7.4	12.9
COMBINATION PILLOW	5600	3/01/00	---	4.1	5.9	5.1
COPPER BOTTOM PILLOW	5200	3/01/00	---	10.7	14.2	10.0
COPPER CAMP PILLOW	6950	3/01/00	---	26.0	39.2	29.8
COPPER CREEK	5700	2/23/00	40	11.0	17.4	13.4
COPPER MOUNTAIN	7700	2/26/00	32	9.5	10.7	9.1
COTTONWOOD CREEK	6400	2/29/00	29	6.9	6.6	6.5
COYOTE HILL	4200	2/25/00	28	8.2	10.6	9.5
CREVICE MOUNTAIN	8400	2/25/00	31	8.6	11.4	9.0
CRYSTAL LAKE PILLOW	6050	3/01/00	---	9.0	10.1	10.7
DAD CREEK LAKE	8400	3/02/00	40	11.0	12.1	11.0
DAISY PEAK	7600	2/28/00	27	6.8	10.3	9.0
DAISY PEAK PILLOW	7600	3/01/00	---	7.1	10.2	11.3
DAISY PEAK	7600	2/28/00	27	6.8	10.3	9.0
DALY CREEK PILLOW	5780	3/01/00	---	9.3	12.6	10.0
DARKHORSE LK. PILLOW	8700	3/01/00	---	25.4	29.5	27.9
DAVIS CREEK	5400	2/25/00	53	18.5	38.2	21.1
DEADMAN CR PILLOW	6450	3/01/00	---	9.8	10.6	8.6
DESERT MOUNTAIN	5600	2/25/00	42	12.1	12.9	13.2
DISCOVERY BASIN	7050	2/24/00	28	6.3	9.6	8.6
DIVIDE PILLOW	7800	3/01/00	---	6.7	9.4	8.9
DIX HILL	6400	2/27/00	35	10.8	11.4	10.7
DUPUYER CREEK PILLOW	5750	3/01/00	---	6.4	11.6	10.6
EAST FORK R.S.	5400	3/01/00	22	6.0	7.2	6.0
EL DORADO MINE	7800	2/26/00	54	12.8	20.5	16.7
ELK HORN SPRINGS	7800	2/28/00	28	7.8	10.6	7.8
ELK PEAK	8000	2/29/00	31	8.0	16.0	13.4
EMERY CREEK PILLOW	4350	3/01/00	---	13.1	15.3	14.0
FATTY CREEK	5500	2/29/00	62	19.2	21.9	20.2
FISHER CREEK PILLOW	9100	3/01/00	---	27.8	37.0	30.3
FIVE-BULL	5700	2/24/00	24	5.2	7.7	5.8
FLATTOP MTN PILLOW	6300	3/01/00	---	33.9	54.0	40.9
FLEECER RIDGE	7500	2/28/00	29	9.5	14.2	9.0
FOOLHEN	8280	2/28/00	41	10.8	16.0	13.8
FOUR MILE	6900	2/28/00	24	6.0	8.7	7.1
FOURTH OF JULY	3450	2/24/00	23	7.0	13.7	8.6
FREIGHT CREEK	6000	2/25/00	39	10.4	18.6	12.9
FROHNER MDWS PILLOW	6480	3/01/00	---	5.3	6.6	7.2
GARVER CREEK PILLOW	4250	3/01/00	---	7.8	12.2	9.2
GARVER CREEK	4250	2/25/00	27	7.9	13.6	9.9
GOAT MOUNTAIN	7000	2/27/00	31	8.7	11.4	9.2
GRASSHOPPER	7000	2/29/00	12	2.5	6.8	4.9
GRAVE CRK PILLOW	4300	3/01/00	---	12.8	16.2	15.2
GRIFFIN CR DIVIDE	5150	3/01/00	29	8.0	11.6	10.0
HAND CREEK PILLOW	5030	3/01/00	---	10.3	13.0	10.9
HAWKINS LAKE PILLOW	6450	3/01/00	---	16.5	34.7	24.2
HEBGEN DAM	6550	2/27/00	39	10.9	12.6	10.8
HELL ROARING DIVIDE	5770	2/26/00	71	23.9	30.7	26.4
HERRIG JUNCTION	4850	2/29/00	61	21.4	29.7	21.7
HOLBROOK	4530	3/01/00	33	10.5	10.7	8.8

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-90
HOODOO BASIN PILLOW	6050	3/01/00	---	35.1	56.0	39.7
INDEPENDENCE	7850	2/24/00	42	13.0	20.5	15.6
INTERGAARD	6450	2/27/00	26	4.8	6.6	6.8
JOHNSON PARK	6450	2/28/00	21	5.6	7.5	6.4
KISHENEHN	3890	3/01/00	25	6.9	9.5	7.5
KRAFT CREEK PILLOW	4750	3/01/00	---	13.9	14.4	14.5
LAKE CREEK	6100	2/29/00	27	6.7	8.0	7.4
LAKEVIEW CANYON	6930	2/29/00	30	6.4	13.3	9.4
LAKEVIEW RDG. PILLOW	7400	3/01/00	---	6.9	14.3	10.3
LEMHI RIDGE PILLOW	8100	3/01/00	---	7.8	9.5	8.9
LICK CREEK PILLOW	6860	3/01/00	---	7.1	8.9	10.7
LITTLE PARK	7400	2/29/00	48	13.1	13.8	13.4
LOGAN CREEK	4300	3/01/00	25	6.0	7.5	6.7
LONE MOUNTAIN PILLOW	8880	3/01/00	---	13.6	19.5	15.5
LOWER TWIN PILLOW	7900	3/01/00	---	11.8	15.4	15.0
LUBRECHT PILLOW	4680	3/01/00	---	5.8	6.1	5.8
LUBRECHT FOREST NO 3	5450	2/28/00	23	6.1	6.8	6.3
LUBRECHT FOREST NO 4	4650	2/28/00	11	2.8	3.0	3.1
LUBRECHT FOREST NO 6	4040	2/29/00	12	3.2	4.0	3.7
LUBRECHT HYDROPLOT	4200	2/29/00	20	5.5	6.4	6.4
MADISON PLT PILLOW	7750	3/01/00	---	16.3	32.4	20.6
MANY GLACIER PILLOW	4900	3/01/00	---	12.3	18.9	14.8
MARIAS PASS	5250	2/24/00	40	13.7	20.6	14.9
MAYNARD CREEK	6210	2/25/00	34	8.8	13.3	12.4
MIDDLE MILL CREEK	7850	2/29/00	44	13.5	14.3	13.5
MILL CREEK	7500	3/01/00	40	10.5	13.1	10.2
MINERAL CREEK	4000	2/27/00	53	17.2	20.4	15.9
MONUMENT PK PILLOW	8850	3/01/00	---	16.8	23.9	17.8
MOSS PEAK PILLOW	6780	3/01/00	---	26.9	35.1	31.4
MT LOCKHART PILLOW	6400	3/01/00	---	16.4	24.8	18.0
MULE CREEK PILLOW	8300	3/01/00	---	13.7	16.1	13.2
NEVADA RIDGE PILLOW	7020	3/01/00	---	13.7	19.2	11.9
NEW WORLD	6900	2/25/00	38	8.5	10.4	12.0
NEWTON MOUNTAIN	5600	2/24/00	72	27.1	44.7	29.0
NEZ PERCE CMP PILLOW	5650	3/01/00	---	13.2	15.3	13.0
NEZ PERCE CREEK	6600	2/26/00	21	6.7	7.3	5.9
NEZ PERCE PASS	6570	2/29/00	---	16.8E	14.7	16.3
NOISY BASIN PILLOW	6040	3/01/00	---	31.3	39.9	33.7
N.F. ELK CR PILLOW	6250	3/01/00	---	11.2	13.0	10.8
NF JOCKO PILLOW	6330	3/01/00	---	35.6	45.8	39.8
N.E. ENTRANCE PILLOW	7350	3/01/00	---	9.4	11.3	8.1
NOTCH	8500	2/29/00	49	10.3	15.5	12.4
OPHIR PARK	7150	2/27/00	40	12.0	16.6	14.7
PETERSON MDW PILLOW	7200	3/01/00	---	6.1	8.6	8.5
PICKFOOT CRK PILLOW	6650	3/01/00	---	7.4	11.1	9.1
PIKE CREEK PILLOW	5930	3/01/00	---	19.3	31.2	22.8
PIPESTONE PASS	7200	2/27/00	14	5.2	5.6	4.1
PLACER BASIN PILLOW	8830	3/01/00	---	14.3	15.5	15.3
PORCUPINE PILLOW	6500	3/01/00	---	4.9	6.6	6.1

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-90
POTOMAGETON PARK	7150	2/29/00	43	12.2	14.3	12.6
RED TOP	5260	2/23/00	62	22.3	36.7	24.0
REVAIS CREEK	4800	2/29/00	10	2.6	2.6	3.1
ROCK CREEK	5600	2/29/00	31	8.1	8.6	8.7
ROCK CREEK MEADOW	8160	2/28/00	56	15.4	20.4	17.4
ROCKER PEAK PILLOW	8000	3/01/00	---	8.7	11.8	12.6
ROCKY BOY PILLOW	4700	3/01/00	---	3.1	6.3	4.6
ROCKY BOY	4700	2/25/00	9	2.0	5.2	4.0
SACAJAWEA	6550	2/25/00	35	9.2	14.2	11.8
SADDLE MTN PILLOW	7900	3/01/00	---	18.4	27.9	21.9
SHORT CREEK PILLOW	7000	3/01/00	---	4.3	5.4	4.9
SHOWER FALLS PILLOW	8100	3/01/00	---	15.4	19.0	18.8
SKALKAHO PILLOW	7260	3/01/00	---	18.3	27.0	20.8
SLIDE ROCK MOUNTAIN	7100	2/23/00	33	9.4	17.7	13.3
SMUGGLER MINE	6960	2/29/00	29	7.7	9.2	8.6
S. F. SHIELDS PILLOW	8100	3/01/00	---	9.7	15.3	14.2
SPOTTED BEAR MTN.	7000	2/25/00	43	12.4	15.0	13.3
SPUR PARK PILLOW	8100	3/01/00	---	15.1	22.9	18.6
SLEEPING WOMAN PILL	6150	3/01/00	---	13.5	19.3	13.0
STAHL PEAK PILLOW	6030	3/01/00	---	25.0	37.6	30.2
STEMPLE PASS	6600	2/25/00	35	8.6	12.0	8.5
STORM LAKE	7780	2/24/00	35	7.0	13.2	10.8
STRYKER BASIN	6180	2/29/00	69	26.2	32.1	28.5
STUART MOUNTAIN	7400	2/29/00	83	28.3	34.8	27.4
STUART MOUNTAIN PILL	7400	3/01/00	---	26.3	36.1	25.8
SUCKER CREEK	3960	2/25/00	0	.0	.6	.4
TAYLOR ROAD	4080	2/25/00	8	1.8	4.8	3.1
TEN MILE LOWER	6600	2/24/00	18	4.0	5.6	6.3
TEN MILE MIDDLE	6800	2/24/00	25	5.5	8.0	9.5
TEPEE CREEK PILLOW	8000	3/01/00	---	10.3	13.7	10.9
TIMBERLINE CREEK	8850	2/24/00	35	9.9	8.7	11.5
TIZER BASIN PILLOW	6840	3/01/00	---	6.8	7.1	9.6
TRAIL CREEK	7090	2/29/00	27	7.1	8.0	6.9
TRINKUS LAKE	6100	2/25/00	97	35.2	39.9	36.7
TRUMAN CREEK	4060	2/29/00	15	3.6	4.6	5.0
TV MOUNTAIN	6800	2/29/00	50	14.4	19.2	15.6
TWELVEMILE PILLOW	5600	3/01/00	---	17.4	22.0	16.4
TWENTY-ONE MILE	7150	2/29/00	44	12.8	21.2	14.9
TWIN CREEKS	3580	2/25/00	36	11.2	10.2	10.7
TWIN LAKES PILLOW	6400	3/01/00	---	36.0	50.9	34.3
UPPER HOLLAND LAKE	6200	2/25/00	93	31.9	31.6	30.4
WALDRON PILLOW	5600	3/01/00	---	9.5	13.5	10.0
WARM SPRINGS PILLOW	7800	3/01/00	---	15.5	20.0	18.2
WEASEL DIVIDE	5450	2/28/00	77	26.2	35.6	29.5
WEST YELLOWSTONE	6700	2/28/00	32	8.4	13.7	10.3
WEST YELL'ST PILLOW	6700	3/01/00	---	8.0	14.1	10.1
WHISKEY CREEK PILLOW	6800	3/01/00	---	12.1	19.1	14.5
WHITE MILL PILLOW	8700	3/01/00	---	21.2	25.4	21.2
WHITE PINE RIDGE	8850	2/29/00	18	5.4	5.3	4.4
WILLOW CREEK	6500	2/22/00	18	4.2	3.9	7.1
WOOD CREEK PILLOW	5960	3/01/00	---	7.9	10.8	9.7
WRONG CREEK	5700	2/25/00	39	10.8	13.4	12.0
WRONG RIDGE	6800	2/25/00	45	14.6	21.0	16.6

Montana Water Supply Outlook Report as of March 1, 2000

During February there were only a couple storms that produced significant snow fall and the storm track was mostly in the southern mountains. Temperatures east of the Continental Divide have been about 2 to 5 degrees above average and west of the Continental Divide have been near average to 2 degrees above average, except for the southwest where temperatures climbed 4 to 8 degrees above average. Precipitation for February was generally below to near average.

Snowpack

On March 1 mountain snow water contents should be at about 80% to 85% of the winter accumulation. Snowpack extremes were ranging from well below average in the Milk River and Musselshell Basins and near average in the Kootenai Mainstem, South Fork Flathead, West Side Bitterroot, and Lower Clark Fork Basins. Statewide, mountain snow water content was 90 percent of average and 72 percent of last year. Snowpack continues to be below to near average at higher elevations and below to well below average at mid and low mountain elevations. West of the Continental Divide, snowpack was 92 percent of average and 72 percent of last year and east of the Continental Divide, snowpack was 86 percent of average and 73 percent of last year.

RIVER BASIN	% OF AVERAGE	% OF LAST YEAR
COLUMBIA	92	72
KOOTENAI	91	62
FLATHEAD	91	77
UPPER CLARK FORK	86	73
BITTERROOT	97	74
LOWER CLARK FORK	102	69
MISSOURI	85	71
MISSOURI HEADWATERS	88	73
JEFFERSON	88	74
MADISON	86	68
GALLATIN	85	75
MISSOURI MAINSTEM	80	67
HEADWATERS MAINSTEM	78	71
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	79	71
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	85	67
MAINSTEM ABOVE FT. PECK RES	82	69
MILK	59	44
BEARPAW MOUNTAINS	64	48
CYPRESS HILLS, CANADA	54	40
ST. MARY	89	68
ST. MARY & MILK	79	60
YELLOWSTONE	88	76
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	90	75
LOWER YELLOWSTONE (WYOMING)	87	76
WIND	77	62
SHOSHONE	89	66
BIGHORN	89	73
TONGUE	92	104
POWDER	91	92

Precipitation

February mountain and valley precipitation across the state was 96 percent of average and 67 percent of last year, while the water year precipitation was 95 percent of average and 79 percent of last year. West of the Continental Divide, February mountain and valley precipitation was 93 percent of average and 62 percent of last year and the water year precipitation was 103 percent of average and 84 percent of last year. East of the Divide, February mountain and valley precipitation was 100 percent of average and 73 percent of last year and the water year precipitation was 87 percent of average and 73 percent of last year.

RIVER BASIN	FEBRUARY % OF AVERAGE	WATER YEAR % OF AVERAGE
COLUMBIA	930	103
KOOTENAI	82	103
FLATHEAD	87	110
UPPER CLARK FORK	97	93
BITTERROOT	95	100
LOWER CLARK FORK	99	108
MISSOURI	95	86
JEFFERSON	104	85
MADISON	111	86
GALLATIN	87	81
MISSOURI MAINSTEM	100	74
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	81	82
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	84	106
MILK	72	77
ST. MARY	80	112
YELLOWSTONE	117	87
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	117	88
LOWER YELLOWSTONE (WYOMING) ..	119	88
WIND	102	75
SHOSHONE	135	97
BIGHORN	109	90
TONGUE	120	102
POWDER	91	98

Reservoirs

Major reservoir storages statewide were 103 percent of average and 104 percent of last year. Reservoir storage west of the Continental Divide was 99 percent of average and 105 percent of last year. East of the Continental Divide, reservoir storages were 108 percent of average and 104 percent of last year.

RIVER BASIN	% OF AVERAGE	% OF LAST YEAR
COLUMBIA	99	105
KOOTENAI	93	102
FLATHEAD	102	107
UPPER CLARK FORK	115	98
BITTERROOT	65	108
LOWER CLARK FORK	109	101
MISSOURI	106	100
JEFFERSON	112	103
MADISON	124	109
GALLATIN	93	90
MISSOURI MAINSTEM	98	95
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	99	85
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	117	107
MILK	88	95
ST. MARY	91	168
YELLOWSTONE	115	120
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	110	115
LOWER YELLOWSTONE	116	120

Streamflow

River basin averages for streamflows across Montana are forecast to range between 62 and 86 percent of average. West of the Continental Divide, streamflow averages are forecast to range between 82 and 102 percent of average and east of the Continental Divide, streamflow averages are forecast to range between 53 and 82 percent of average.

Should the above average temperatures and below average precipitation continue, spring and summer streamflows could be well below average to below average in most areas of Montana.

Below are river basin streamflow forecast summaries for the period April 1 through July 31. THESE FORECASTS ASSUME NEAR NORMAL SPRING CONDITIONS AND DO NOT ACCOUNT FOR WELL BELOW AVERAGE (70% or less) OR WELL ABOVE AVERAGE (130% or more) SNOWMELT OR SPRING RAIN. Specific forecast probabilities are available in each individual River Basin Report.

RIVER BASIN	April-July THIS YEAR	April-July LAST YEAR
	% OF AVERAGE	% OF AVERAGE
COLUMBIA	82 to 102	108 to 129
KOOTENAI	86 to 104	113 to 131
FLATHEAD	86 to 101	106 to 121
UPPER CLARK FORK	65 to 96	99 to 130
BITTERROOT	85 to 104	114 to 133
LOWER CLARK FORK	85 to 103	110 to 128
MISSOURI	61 to 91	102 to 134
JEFFERSON	52 to 88	94 to 131
MADISON	80 to 95	109 to 124
GALLATIN	73 to 94	89 to 110
MISSOURI MAINSTEM	64 to 95	103 to 133
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL ..	61 to 95	103 to 138
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	67 to 104	111 to 146
MILK	30 to 65	104 to 153
ST. MARY	71 to 83	120 to 132
YELLOWSTONE	66 to 90	96 to 120
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	73 to 94	104 to 124
LOWER YELLOWSTONE	58 to 87	87 to 116

NOTE: The APRIL-JULY LAST YEAR % OF AVERAGE column above is what was forecast last year, not what actually occurred.

Surface Water Supply Index

The Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) is a measure of available surface water availability for the spring and summer months. Water users that rely on mountain precipitation can use the index to evaluate seasonal surface water supplies. The SWSI accounts for mountain snowpack, mountain precipitation, streamflow, reservoir storage, and soil moisture.

SWSI RATING	SURFACE WATER CONDITION
+3.0 to +4.0	Extremely Wet
+2.0 to +2.9	Moderately Wet
+1.0 to +1.9	Slightly Wet
-0.9 to +0.9	Near Average
-1.0 to -1.9	Slightly Dry
-2.0 to -2.9	Moderately Dry
-3.0 to -4.0	Extremely Dry

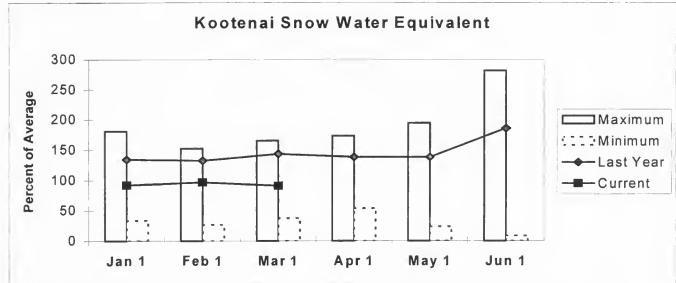
SWSI

Basin

-0.3	Kootenai River at Ft. Steele (Kootenai in Canada)
-0.3	Tobacco River
+0.5	Kootenai Ft. Steele to Libby Dam
+0.4	Kootenai River below Libby Dam
-0.6	Fisher River
-0.8	Yaak River
-0.7	North Fork Flathead River
-1.4	Middle FORK Flathead River
+0.3	South Fork Flathead River
-0.6	Flathead River at Columbia Falls
0.0	Stillwater/Whitefish Rivers
-0.7	Swan River
-0.8	Flathead River at Polson
-0.8	Mission Valley
+0.9	Little Bitterroot River
-1.4	Clark Fork River above Milltown
-1.3	Blackfoot River
-1.3	Clark Fork River above Missoula
-0.5	Bitterroot River
-1.1	Clark Fork River below Bitterroot River
-0.9	Clark Fork River below Flathead River
-0.8	Beaverhead River
-1.6	Ruby River
-1.3	Big Hole River
-1.8	Boulder River (Jefferson)
-1.3	Jefferson River
-0.3	Madison River
-1.0	Gallatin River
-0.9	Missouri River above Canyon Ferry
-0.9	Missouri River below Canyon Ferry
-1.3	Smith River
-0.5	Sun River
-0.3	Teton River
-1.6	Birch/Dupuyer Creeks
+0.4	Marias River
-1.3	Musselshell River
+0.1	Missouri River above Ft. Peck
-0.4	Missouri River below Ft. Peck
-1.1	Milk River
-1.1	Yellowstone River above Livingston
-2.9	Shields River
-1.4	Boulder River (Yellowstone)
-0.9	Stillwater River
-1.9	Rock/Red Lodge Creeks
-0.6	Clarks Fork River
-1.0	Yellowstone River above Bighorn River
-0.4	Bighorn River below Bighorn Lake
-0.7	Little Bighorn River
-0.7	Yellowstone River below Bighorn River
-0.7	Tongue River
-1.7	Powder River

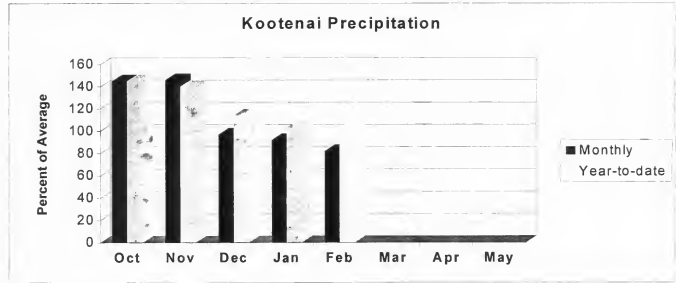
Kootenai River Basin in Montana

Snowpack conditions in the Kootenai River Basin were slightly below average. Snow water content was 91 percent of average and 62 percent of last year. Snow water content in the Kootenay in Canada was 97 percent of average and 73 percent of last year.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum was in 1977; February maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1974 and minimum swe was in 1977; May maximum swe was in 1974 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1974 and minimum swe was in 1992. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain precipitation during February was 81 percent of average and 47 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 109 percent of average and 146 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 103 percent of average and 81 percent of last year.



Lake Koocanusa storage was 93 percent of average and 102 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -0.3 in the Kootenai at Ft. Steele (Kootenai in Canada); -0.3 in the Tobacco River; +0.5 in the Kootenai Ft. Steele to Libby Dam; +0.4 in the Kootenai River below Libby Dam; -0.6 in the Fisher River; and -0.8 in the Yaak River.

KOOTENAI RIVER BASIN in Montana
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<----- Drier ----->>		Future Conditions		----- Wetter ----->>		30-Yr Avg (1000AF)
		90%	70%	Chance Of Exceeding *		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
TOBACCO RIVER nr Eureka	APR-JUL	90	111	125	94	139	160	133
	APR-SEP	100	124	140	95	156	180	147
LIBBY RES Inflow (1,2)	APR-JUL	4867	5687	6060	105	6433	7253	5779
	APR-SEP	5700	6663	7100	105	7537	8500	6772
FISHER RIVER nr Libby	APR-JUL	128	174	205	88	236	282	234
	APR-SEP	139	187	220	88	253	301	250
YAAK RIVER nr Troy	APR-JUL	306	362	400	83	438	494	483
	APR-SEP	324	381	420	83	459	516	505
KOOTENAI at Leona (1,2)	APR-JUL	6092	7122	7590	105	8058	9088	7199
	APR-SEP	6996	8182	8720	105	9258	10444	8275

KOOTENAI RIVER BASIN in Montana Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					KOOTENAI RIVER BASIN in Montana Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
	Year	This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
LAKE KOOCANUSA	5748.0	1785.0	1751.0	1921.0	KOOTENAY in CANADA	24	70	92
					KOOTENAI MAINTSTEM	3	61	104
					TOBACCO	3	72	85
					FISHER	4	64	88
					YAAK	7	55	85
					KOOTENAI in MONTANA	17	61	91
					KOOTENAI ab BONNERS FERRY	41	65	91

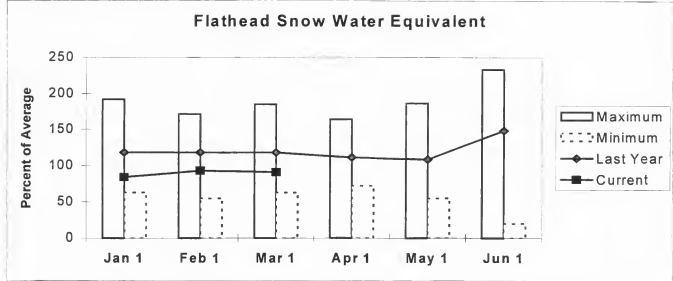
* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

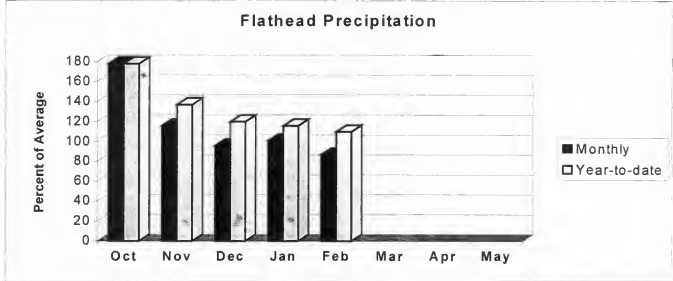
Flathead River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Flathead River Basin were slightly below average. Snow water content was 91 percent of average and 77 percent of last year. Snow water content in the North Fork Flathead River in Canada was 84 percent of average and 73 percent of last year.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum was in 1988; February maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1992; May maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1992; and June maximum swe was in 1974 and minimum was in 1992. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain precipitation during February was 85 percent of average and 62 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 170 percent of average and 151 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 110 percent of average and 92 percent of last year.



Combined Camas reservoir storage was 137 percent of average and 83 percent of last year; combined Mission Valley reservoir storage was 75 percent of average and 105 percent of last year; Hungry Horse storage was 110 percent of average and 106 percent of last year; and Flathead Lake storage was 81 percent of average and 111 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -0.7 in the North Fork Flathead River; -1.4 in the Middle Fork Flathead River; +0.3 in the South Fork Flathead River; -0.6 in the Flathead River at Columbia Falls; 0.0 in the Stillwater/Whitefish Rivers; -0.7 in the Swan River; -0.8 in the Flathead River at Polson; -0.8 in the Mission Valley; and +0.9 in the Little Bitterroot River.

FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<----- Drier ----->>		Future Conditions		----- Wetter ----->>		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%	70%	50% (Most Probable)		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
NF FLATHEAD nr Columbia Falls	APR-JUL	1302	1444	1540	93	1636	1778	1662
	APR-SEP	1438	1594	1700	93	1806	1962	1836
MF FLATHEAD nr West Glacier	APR-JUL	1283	1418	1510	92	1602	1737	1638
	APR-SEP	1401	1549	1650	92	1751	1899	1788
HUNGRY HORSE Reservoir Inflow (1,2)	APR-JUL	1534	1834	1970	96	2106	2406	2051
	APR-SEP	1649	1959	2100	96	2241	2551	2184
FLATHEAD at Columbia Falls (2)	APR-JUL	4263	4803	5170	94	5537	6077	5482
	APR-SEP	4634	5221	5620	94	6019	6606	5960
STILLWATER nr Whitefish	APR-JUL	118	155	180	95	205	242	189
	APR-SEP	133	173	200	96	227	267	209
WHITEFISH nr Kalispell	APR-JUL	71	85	95	91	105	119	104
	APR-SEP	77	94	105	91	116	133	116
SWAN RIVER nr Bigfork	APR-JUL	435	498	540	93	582	645	583
	APR-SEP	488	560	610	92	660	732	665
FLATHEAD Lake Inflow (1,2)	APR-JUL	5022	5791	6140	96	6489	7258	6390
	APR-SEP	5437	6271	6650	96	7029	7863	6926

FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CANAS (4)	45.2	28.8	34.9	21.0	NF FLATHEAD in CANADA	4	74	85
MISSION VALLEY (8)	100.0	28.3	26.9	37.8	NF FLATHEAD in MONTANA	9	71	89
HUNGRY HORSE	3451.0	2428.0	2281.0	2205.0	MIDDLE FORK FLATHEAD	6	67	85
FLATHEAD LAKE	1791.0	712.0	638.6	881.0	SOUTH FORK FLATHEAD	7	90	99
					STILLWATER-WHITEFISH	10	79	91
					SWAN	7	85	94
					MISSION VALLEY	4	82	90
					LITTLE BITTERROOT-ASHLEY	6	76	82
					JOCKO	5	75	95
					FLATHEAD in MONTANA	40	77	91
					FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN	44	77	91

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

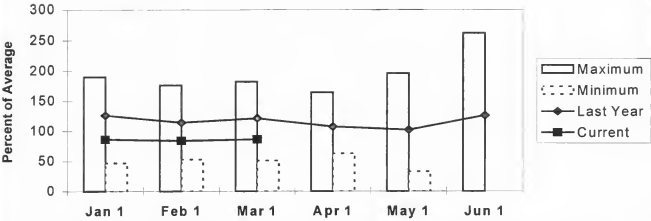
The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
 (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

Upper Clark Fork River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin were below average. Snow water content was 86 percent of average and 73 percent of last year.

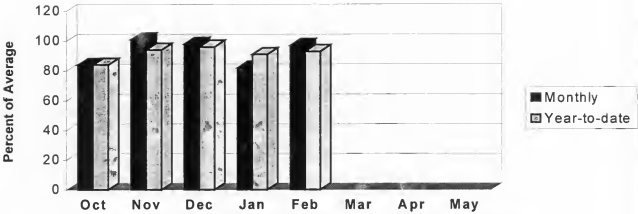
Upper Clark Fork Snow Water Equivalent



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; February maximum was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1994; May maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1975 and minimum swe was in 1987. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain precipitation during February was 95 percent of average and 71 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 124 percent of average and 88 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 93 percent of average and 77 percent of last year.

Upper Clark Fork Precipitation



Lower Willow Creek storage was 147 percent of average and 104 percent of last year; and Nevada Creek storage was 126 percent of average and 90 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -1.4 in the Clark Fork River above Milltown; -1.3 in the Blackfoot River; and -1.3 in the Clark Fork River above Missoula.

UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<----- Drier ----->>		Future Conditions		Wetter ----->>		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%	70%	Chance Of Exceeding *		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	50% (Most Probable) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
WARM SPRINGS CK at Anaconda	APR-JUL	13.5	22	28	72	33	42	38
	APR-SEP	18.7	28	35	73	41	50	47
LITTLE BLACKFOOT nr Garrison	APR-JUL	17.5	43	60	72	77	103	83
	APR-SEP	22	48	66	74	84	111	89
FLINT CREEK nr Southern Cross	APR-JUL	3.9	7.9	10.7	75	13.5	17.5	14.2
	APR-SEP	3.9	9.0	12.4	74	15.8	21	16.7
FLINT CREEK blw Boulder Ck	APR-JUL	15.8	31	42	73	52	68	57
	APR-SEP	23	42	54	74	67	85	73
LOWER WILLOW CK RES Inflow	APR-JUL	3.0	7.0	9.8	70	12.6	16.6	14.0
	APR-SEP	3.4	7.6	10.4	70	13.2	17.4	14.8
MF ROCK CREEK nr Philipsburg	APR-JUL	39	50	58	88	66	77	66
	APR-SEP	44	57	65	88	73	86	74
ROCK CREEK nr Clinton	APR-JUL	134	188	225	76	262	316	296
	APR-SEP	155	215	255	77	295	355	333
NEVADA CREEK nr Finn	APR-JUL	7.5	13.1	17.0	89	21	27	19.1
	APR-SEP	8.5	14.4	18.5	88	23	29	21
CLEARWATER nr Clearwater	APR-JUL	112	143	165	96	187	218	172
	APR-SEP	120	153	175	97	197	230	181
BLACKFOOT RIVER nr Bonner	APR-JUL	545	685	780	93	875	1015	835
	APR-SEP	613	763	865	93	967	1117	926
CLARK FORK abv Milltown	APR-JUL	240	401	510	78	619	780	652
	APR-SEP	289	468	590	78	712	891	755
CLARK FORK abv Missoula	APR-JUL	907	1129	1280	86	1431	1653	1487
	APR-SEP	1045	1286	1450	86	1614	1855	1681

UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***	Last Year		Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	
			Year	Year			Avg	Average
GEORGETOWN LAKE	31.0	28.3	28.4	25.7	CLARK FORK ab FLINT CREEK	13	76	85
LOWER WILLOW CREEK	4.9	2.5	2.4	1.7	FLINT CREEK	6	65	74
NEVADA CREEK	12.6	6.3	7.0	5.0	ROCK CREEK	5	61	77
					CLARK FORK ab BLACKFOOT	21	71	82
					BLACKFOOT	16	75	94
					UPPER CLARK FORK BASIN	35	73	87

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

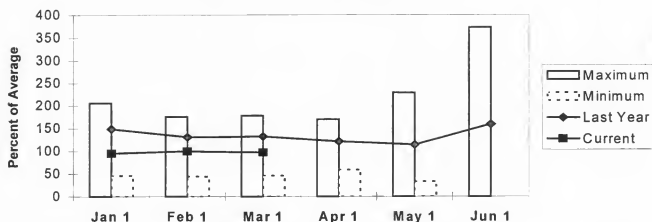
The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

Bitterroot River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Bitterroot River Basin were near average. Snow water content was 97 percent of average and 74 percent of last year.

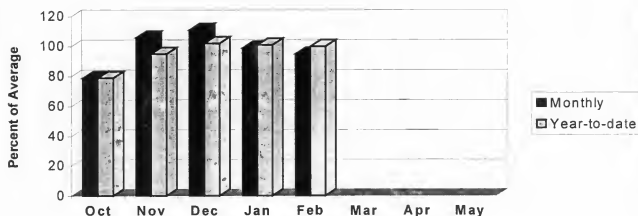
Bitterroot Snow Water Equivalent



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe in 1977. February maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1977. March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977. April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977. May maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1987; and June maximum swe was 1972 and 1974 and minimum swe was in 1987 and 1992. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain precipitation during February was 92 percent of average and 60 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 128 percent of average and 91 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 100 percent of average and 78 percent of last year.

Bitterroot Precipitation



Painted Rocks Lake storage was 69 percent of average and 129 percent of last year and Como storage was 62 percent of average and 92 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -0.5 in the Bitterroot River.

BITTERROOT RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier =====		Future Conditions		===== Wetter =====>>		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%	70%	50% (Most Probable)		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
WF BITTERROOT nr Conner (2)	APR-JUL	100	127	145	95	163	190	152
	APR-SEP	109	139	160	96	181	211	166
BITTERROOT nr Darby	APR-JUL	333	409	460	94	511	587	491
	APR-SEP	373	452	505	94	558	637	540
COMO RESERVOIR Inflow	APR-JUL	67	75	81	103	87	95	79
	APR-SEP	71	79	85	102	91	99	83
SKALKAHO CK nr Hamilton	APR-JUL	27	35	41	89	47	55	46
	APR-SEP	33	42	48	91	54	63	53
BITTERROOT at Missoula	APR-JUL	991	1121	1210	93	1299	1429	1300
	APR-SEP	1074	1215	1310	92	1405	1546	1420

BITTERROOT RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					BITTERROOT RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** This Year	Usable Storage Last Year	*** Avg	Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
							Last Yr	Average
PAINTED ROCKS LAKE	31.7	8.5	6.6	12.3	WEST FORK BITTERROOT	3	84	95
COMO	34.9	8.1	8.8	13.1	EAST SIDE BITTERROOT	5	68	88
					WEST SIDE BITTERROOT	3	71	104
					BITTERROOT RIVER BASIN	10	74	97

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

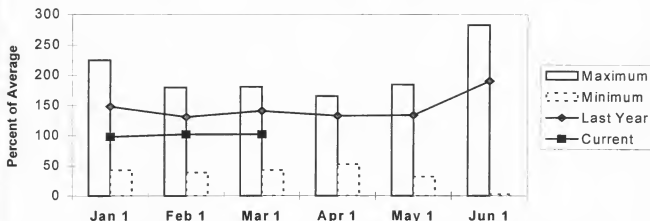
The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
 (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

Lower Clark Fork River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Lower Clark Fork River Basin were near average. Snow water content was 102 percent of average and 69 percent of last year.

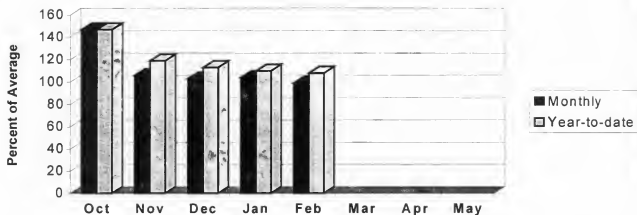
Lower Clark Fork Snow Water Equivalent



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; February maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1981; May maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1974 and minimum swe was in 1977. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain precipitation during February was 96 percent of average and 54 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 110 percent of average and 75 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 108 percent of average and 81 percent of last year.

Lower Clark Fork Precipitation



Noxon Rapids storage was 109 percent of average and 101 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -1.1 in the Clark Fork River below Bitterroot River and -0.9 in the Clark Fork River below Flathead River.

LOWER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<----- Drier -----		Future Conditions		----- Wetter ----->>		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%	70%	50% (Most Probable)		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF) (% AVG.)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
CLARK FORK abv Missoula	APR-JUL	907	1129	1280	86	1431	1653	1487
	APR-SEP	1045	1286	1450	86	1614	1855	1681
CLARK FORK b/w Missoula	APR-JUL	1927	2262	2490	89	2718	3053	2788
	APR-SEP	2152	2514	2760	89	3006	3368	3099
CLARK FORK at St. Regis (1)	APR-JUL	2089	2956	3350	91	3744	4611	3686
	APR-SEP	2320	3283	3720	91	4157	5120	4095
CLARK FORK nr Plains (1,2)	APR-JUL	7157	8871	9650	92	10429	12143	10450
	APR-SEP	7859	9744	10600	92	11456	13341	11470
THOMPSON nr Thompson Falls	APR-JUL	160	193	215	101	237	270	214
	APR-SEP	182	217	240	100	263	298	240
PROSPECT CREEK at Thompson Falls	APR-JUL	97	114	125	102	136	153	123
	APR-SEP	101	118	130	99	142	159	132
CLARK FK at Whitehorse Rds (1,2)	APR-JUL	7835	9805	10700	91	11595	13565	11730
	APR-SEP	8647	10815	11800	91	12785	14953	12910

LOWER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN					LOWER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN			
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
	This Year	Last Year	Avg				Last Yr	Average
NOXON RAPIDS	335.0	326.1	323.9	298.1	LOWER CLARK FORK BASIN	12	69	102

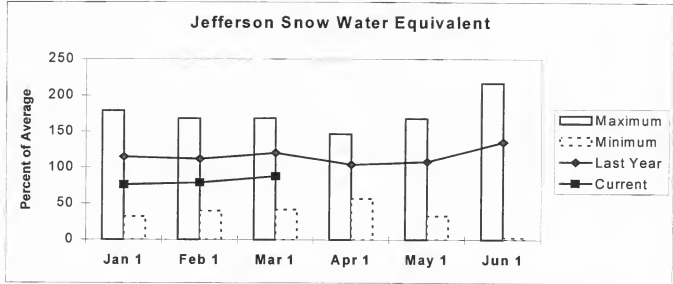
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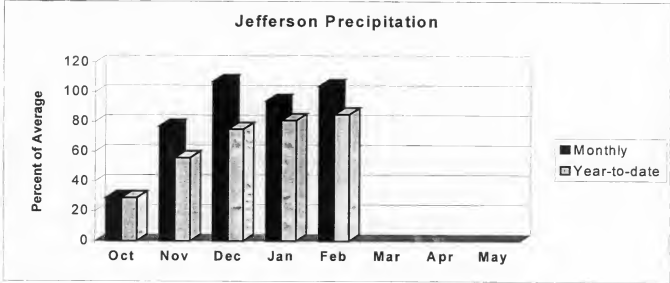
Jefferson River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Jefferson River Basin were below average. Snow water content was 87 percent of average and 74 percent of last year.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; February maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1977; May maximum swe was in 1975 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1982 and minimum in 1987. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain precipitation during February was 100 percent of average and 68 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 177 percent of average and 85 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 85 percent of average and 72 percent of last year.



Lima storage was 136 percent of average and 94 percent of last year; Clark Canyon storage was 110 percent of average and 108 percent of last year; and Ruby River storage was 98 percent of average and 95 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -0.8 in the Beaverhead River; -1.6 in the Ruby River; -1.3 in the Big Hole River; -1.8 in the Boulder River; and -1.3 in the Jefferson River as a whole.

JEFFERSON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

		<<===== Drier =====>>				Future Conditions		===== Wetter =====>>>		
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	90%	70%	Chance Of Exceeding *		30%	10%	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	50% (Most Probable) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)			
LIMA RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	20	46	63	65	80	106	97		
	APR-SEP	16.0	45	65	62	85	114	105		
BEAVERHEAD RIVER nr Grant	APR-JUL	29	65	90	68	115	151	132		
	APR-SEP	27	71	100	65	129	173	155		
BEAVERHEAD RIVER at Barretts (2)	APR-JUL	25	73	105	61	137	185	172		
	APR-SEP	24	81	120	59	159	216	203		
RUBY RIVER Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	32	49	60	72	71	88	83		
	APR-SEP	39	57	70	71	83	101	99		
BIG HOLE RIVER nr Melrose	APR-JUL	328	463	555	87	647	782	641		
	APR-SEP	358	505	605	87	705	852	697		
BOULDER RIVER nr Boulder	APR-JUL	23	49	66	78	84	109	85		
	APR-SEP	25	53	72	79	91	119	91		
WILLOW CREEK Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	1.9	6.7	11.5	65	16.3	24	17.7		
	APR-SEP	1.0	7.6	13.2	66	18.8	27	20		
JEFFERSON RIVER nr Three Forks (2)	APR-JUL	309	506	640	65	774	971	985		
	APR-SEP	331	539	680	67	821	1029	1012		

JEFFERSON RIVER BASIN					JEFFERSON RIVER BASIN			
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
LIMA	84.0	47.0	49.8	34.5	BEAVERHEAD	16	74	92
CLARK CANYON	255.6	160.6	148.8	146.6	RUBY	11	79	85
RUBY RIVER	38.8	26.7	28.2	27.3	BIGHOLE	14	73	91
					BOULDER	8	78	82
					JEFFERSON RIVER BASIN	41	75	88

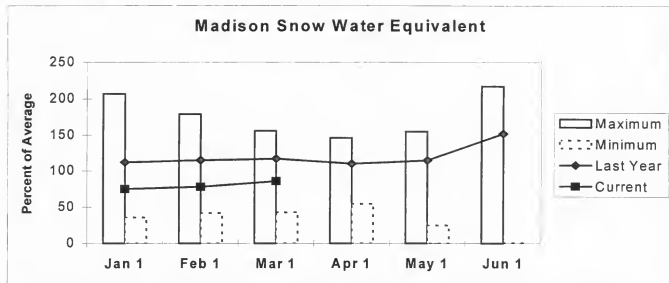
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The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
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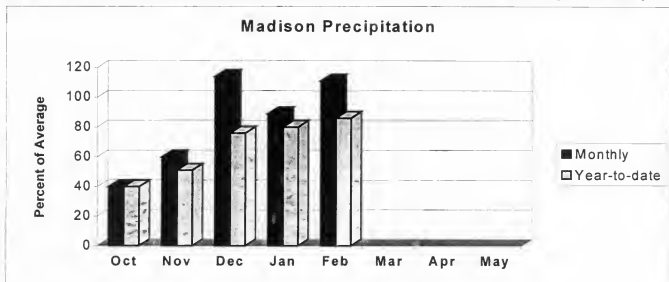
Madison River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Madison River Basin were below average. Snow water content was 86 percent of average and 68 percent of last year.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; February maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1977; May maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1995 and minimum in 1987. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain and valley precipitation during February was 111 percent of average and 62 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 86 percent of average and 68 percent of last year.



Ennis Lake storage was 83 percent of average and 93 percent of last year and Hebgen Lake storage was 129 percent of average and 111 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -0.3 for the Madison River.

MADISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<----- Drier ----->>		Future Conditions		----- Wetter ----->>>		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Chance Of Exceeding *		30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
				50% (Most Probable) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)			
HEBGEN Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	262	305	335	88	365	408	380
	APR-SEP	345	396	430	89	464	515	486
ENNIS Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	452	525	575	87	625	698	662
	APR-SEP	576	665	725	87	785	874	831

MADISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					MADISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg		Data Sites	Last Yr	Average
ENNIS LAKE	41.0	28.2	30.3	34.1	MADISON abv HEBGEN LAKE	6	62	89
HEBGEN LAKE	377.5	320.6	289.2	247.8	MADISON blw HEBGEN LAKE	12	73	85
					MADISON RIVER BASIN	18	68	87

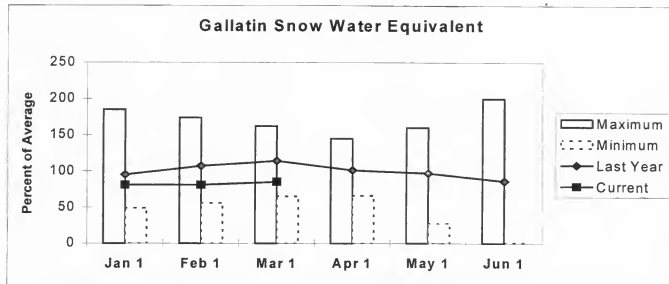
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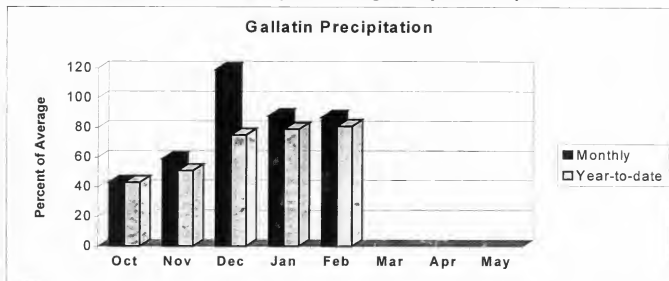
Gallatin River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Gallatin River Basin were below average. Snow water content was 85 percent of average and 75 percent of last year.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1966; February maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1981; March maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1977 and 1987; April maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1987; May maximum swe was in 1970 and minimum swe was in 1987; and June maximum swe was in 1975 and minimum in 1987. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain precipitation during February was 100 percent of average and 75 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 85 percent of average and 89 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 81 percent of average and 74 percent of last year.



Middle Creek storage was 93 percent of average and 90 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -1.0 for the Gallatin River.

GALLATIN RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<----- Drier ----->>		Future Conditions		----- Wetter ----->>		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%	70%	50% (Most Probable)		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
GALLATIN RIVER nr Gateway	APR-JUL	299	353	390	89	427	481	440
	APR-SEP	357	418	460	89	502	563	518
HYALITE RESERVOIR Inflow	APR-JUL	13.9	16.9	19.0	83	21	24	23
	APR-SEP	16.0	19.2	21	82	24	27	26
HYALITE CREEK nr Bozeman (2)	APR-JUL	21	26	30	83	34	39	36
	APR-SEP	25	31	35	83	39	45	42
GALLATIN RIVER at Logan (2)	APR-JUL	219	324	395	79	466	571	498
	APR-SEP	267	382	460	79	538	653	581

GALLATIN RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					GALLATIN RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
MIDDLE CREEK	10.2	5.6	6.2	6.0	UPPER GALLATIN	7	75	91
					HYALITE	4	81	76
					BRIDGER	3	68	81
					GALLATIN RIVER BASIN	14	75	85

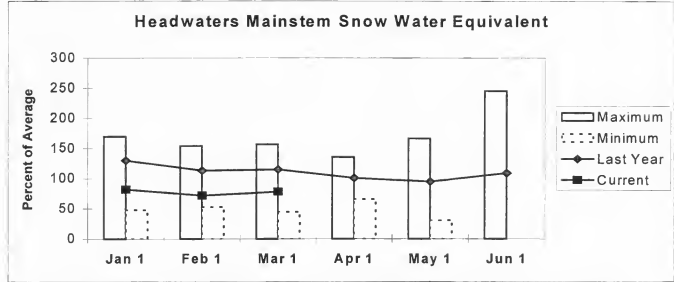
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The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

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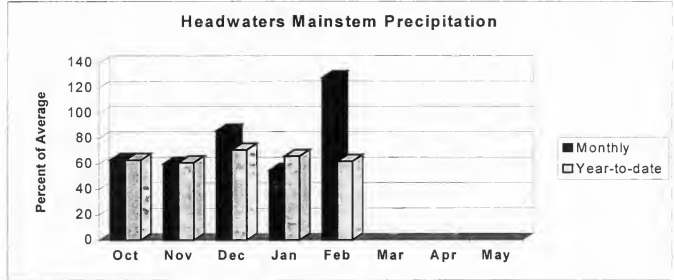
Missouri Mainstem River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Headwaters Missouri Mainstem River Basin were below average. Snow water content was 78 percent of average and 71 percent of last year.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe in 1977; February maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; March maximum swe in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1961; May maximum swe was in 1975 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1982 and minimum swe was in 1992. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain precipitation during February was 92 percent of average and 88 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 128 percent of average and 155 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 74 percent of average and 65 percent of last year.



Canyon Ferry Lake storage was 97 percent of average and 94 percent of last year; Helena Valley storage was 105 percent of average and 102 percent of last year; Lake Helena storage was 112 percent of average and 103 percent of last year; Hauser & Helena storage was 105 percent of average and 101 percent of last year; Holter Lake storage was 118 percent of average and 100 percent of last year; and Fort Peck Lake storage was 102 percent of average and 99 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -0.9 in the Missouri River above Canyon Ferry; -0.9 in the Missouri River below Canyon Ferry; +0.1 in the Missouri River above Fort Peck; and -0.4 in the Missouri River below Fort Peck.

MISSOURI MAINSTEM RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<----- Drier ----->		Future Conditions		----- Wetter ----->		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%	70%	50% (Most Probable)		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
MISSOURI RIVER at Toston (2)	APR-JUL	892	1358	1675	81	1992	2458	2075
	APR-SEP	1160	1617	1950	81	2283	2730	2416
PRICKLY PEAR CREEK nr Clancy	APR-JUL	9.1	14.4	18.0	78	22	27	23
	APR-SEP	10.5	16.7	21	78	25	32	27
GIBSON Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	312	388	440	92	492	568	478
	APR-SEP	354	435	490	93	545	626	526
MISSOURI RIVER at Fort Benton (2)	APR-JUL	1384	2028	2465	80	2902	3546	3087
	APR-SEP	1802	2431	2970	81	3509	4340	3678
MARIAS RIVER nr Shelby (2)	APR-JUL	227	318	380	85	442	533	447
	APR-SEP	247	338	400	82	462	553	487
MISSOURI RIVER at Virgelle (2)	APR-JUL	1369	2254	2855	79	3456	4341	3595
	APR-SEP	2151	2789	3390	80	3991	5229	4217
MISSOURI RIVER nr Landusky (2)	APR-JUL	1667	2547	3145	81	3743	4623	3897
	APR-SEP	2382	3132	3740	82	4348	5817	4580
MISSOURI RIVER below Fort Peck (2)	APR-JUL	1647	2542	3150	79	3758	4653	4015
	APR-SEP	2144	3051	3620	81	4189	5628	4467
LAKE SAKAJAWEA Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	5290	7035	8220	83	9405	11150	9897
	APR-SEP	6240	8201	9380	83	10559	13275	11346

MISSOURI MAINSTEM RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					MISSOURI MAINSTEM RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CANYON FERRY LAKE	2043.0	1497.0	1588.0	1540.0	HEADWATERS MAINSTEM	9	71	78
HELENA VALLEY	9.2	4.4	4.3	4.2	SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	12	71	79
LAKE HELENA	10.4	11.4	11.1	10.2	SUN-TETON-MARIAS	14	67	85
HAUSER & HELENA	61.9	64.2	63.6	61.0	MAINSTEM ab FT PECK RES	34	69	82
BOLTER LAKE	81.9	80.8	81.0	68.2	MILK RIVER BASIN	10	44	59
FORT PECK LAKE (MAF)	18.9	15.0	15.2	14.7	MISSOURI MAINSTEM BASIN	43	67	80

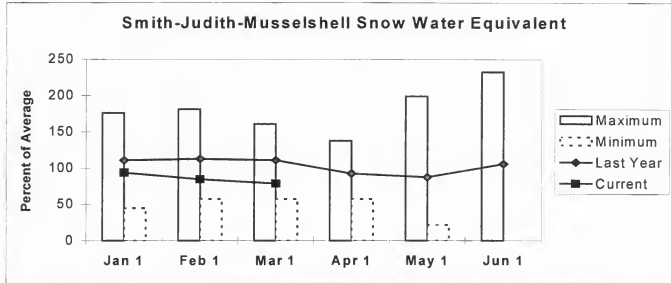
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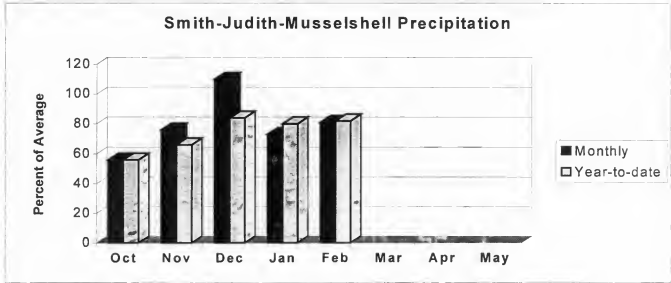
Smith-Judith-Musselshell River Basins

Snowpack conditions in the Smith-Judith-Musselshell River Basins were below average. Snow water content in the Smith River Basin was 78 percent of average and 63 percent of last year; in the Judith River Basin was 83 percent of average and 81 percent of last year; and in the Musselshell Basin River was 67 percent of average and 60 percent of last year.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe in 1988; February maximum swe was in 1978 and minimum swe was in 1987; March maximum swe was in 1978 and minimum swe was in 1987; April maximum swe was in 1970 and minimum swe was in 1992; and May maximum swe was in 1970 and minimum swe was in 1987; and June maximum swe was in 1982 and minimum swe was in 1992. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain and valley precipitation during February in the Smith-Belts was 81 percent of average and 76 percent of last year; in the Judith was 80 percent of average and 72 percent of last year; and in the Musselshell was 91 percent of average and 86 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 82 percent of average and 73 percent of last year.



Smith River storage was 73 percent of average and 62 percent of last year; Bair storage was 48 percent of average and 63 percent of last year; Martinsdale storage was 99 percent of average and 90 percent of last year; and Deadman's Basin was 108 percent of average and 88 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -1.3 in the Smith River and -1.3 in the Musselshell River.

SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<----- Drier ----->>		Future Conditions		Wetter ----->>		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%	70%	Chance Of Exceeding *		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	50% (Most Probable) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
SHEEP CREEK nr White Sulphur Spgs.	APR-JUL	11.1	14.0	16.0	88	18.0	21	18.1
	APR-SEP	12.9	16.2	18.5	88	21	24	21
SMITH RIVER abv Eagle Creek	APR-JUL	84	115	136	78	157	188	175
	APR-SEP	99	138	165	79	192	231	210
NF MUSSELSHELL nr Delpine	APR-JUL	2.31	3.79	4.80	100	5.81	7.29	4.80
	APR-SEP	2.77	4.46	5.60	100	6.74	8.43	5.60
SF MUSSELSHELL abv Martinsdale	APR-JUL	0.7	21	35	66	48	68	52
	APR-SEP	1.6	23	38	67	52	73	56
MUSSELSHELL at Harlowton (2)	APR-JUL	27	46	59	73	71	90	80
	APR-SEP	2.5	47	60	73	73	109	83
MUSSELSHELL nr Roundup (2)	APR-JUL	24	49	65	63	81	106	104
	APR-SEP	24	48	65	62	82	106	105

SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL RIVER BASINS					SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL RIVER BASINS			
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
SMITH RIVER	10.6	4.9	7.9	6.7	SMITH	6	63	78
NEULAN CREEK	NO REPORT				JUDITH	6	81	83
BAIR	7.0	2.0	3.2	4.2	MUSSELSHELL	5	60	67
MARTINSDALE	23.1	9.3	10.3	9.4	SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	12	71	79
DEADMAN'S BASIN	72.2	49.8	56.5	46.1				

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

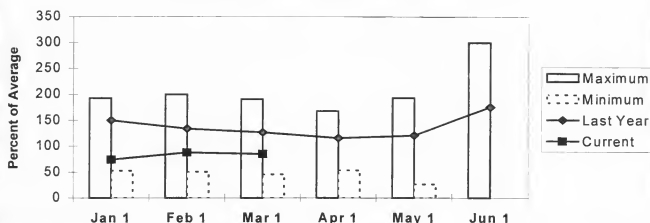
The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

Sun-Teton-Marias River Basins

Snowpack conditions in the Sun-Teton-Marias River Basins were below average. Snow water content in the Sun River Basin was 92 percent of average and 74 percent of last year; in the Teton River Basin was 83 percent of average and 62 percent of last year; and in the Marias River Basin was 80 percent of average and 62 percent of last year.

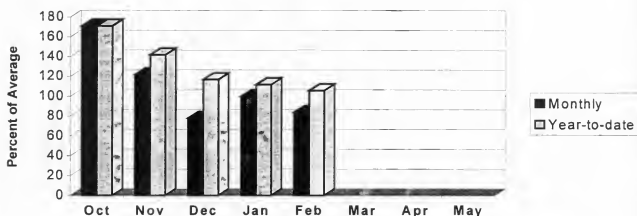
Sun-Teton-Marias Snow Water Equivalent



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1988; February maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1984; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1984; May maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum was in 1982 and minimum swe was in 1992. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain and valley precipitation during February in the Sun was 107 percent of average and 102 percent of last year; in the Teton was 111 percent of average and 89 percent of last year; and in the Marias was 72 percent of average and 64 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 106 percent of average and 90 percent of last year.

Sun-Teton-Marias Precipitation



Gibson storage was 94 percent of average and 117 percent of last year; Pishkun storage was 110 percent of average and 98 percent of last year; Willow Creek storage was 24 percent of average and 24 percent of last year; Lower Two Medicine Lake storage was 172 percent of average and 0 percent of last year; Four Horns Lake storage was 104 percent of average and 140 percent of last year; Swift storage was 83 percent of average and 83 percent of last year; Lake Frances storage was 36 percent of average and 53 percent of last year; and Lake Elwell (Tiber) storage was 133 percent of average and 111 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -0.5 in the Sun River; -0.3 in the Teton River; -1.6 in the Birch/Dupuyer Creeks; and +0.4 in the Marias River.

SUN-TETON-MARIAS RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier =====>>		Future Conditions		===== Wetter =====>>		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%	70%	50% (Most Probable)		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
GIBSON Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	312	388	440	92	492	568	478
	APR-SEP	354	435	490	93	545	626	526
TWO MEDICINE RIVER nr Browning	APR-JUL	113	156	185	86	214	257	215
	APR-SEP	125	169	198	87	227	271	228
BADGER CREEK nr Browning (2)	APR-JUL	58	79	94	90	109	130	104
	APR-SEP	72	94	110	92	126	148	120
SWIFT RESERVOIR Inflow	APR-JUL	34	51	62	91	73	90	68
	APR-SEP	44	61	73	91	85	102	80
DUPUYER CREEK nr Valier	APR-JUL	1.9	6.7	13.1	85	19.5	29	15.5
	APR-SEP	2.3	7.9	14.8	85	22	32	17.4
CUT BANK CREEK at Cut Bank	APR-JUL	48	65	77	88	88	105	87
	APR-SEP	54	72	85	89	98	117	96
MARIAS RIVER nr Shelby (2)	APR-JUL	227	318	380	85	442	533	447
	APR-SEP	247	338	400	82	462	553	487
TETON nr Dutton	APR-JUL	2.4	25	40	67	55	78	59
	APR-SEP	4.4	27	43	63	59	82	68

SUN-TETON-MARIAS RIVER BASINS
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

SUN-TETON-MARIAS RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
GIBSON	99.1	44.8	38.2	47.5	SUN	7	74	92
PISHKUN	32.0	19.3	19.6	17.6	TETON	4	62	83
WILLOW CREEK	32.2	5.3	21.8	21.7	MARIAS	6	62	80
LOWER TWO MEDICINE LAKE	11.9	11.9	0.0	6.9	SUN-TETON-MARIAS	15	68	87
FOUR HORNS LAKE	19.2	13.0	9.3	12.5				
SWIFT	30.0	13.6	16.3	16.4				
LAKE FRANCES	112.0	25.3	47.3	69.7				
LAKE ELWELL (TIBER)	1347.0	771.9	694.9	580.2				

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

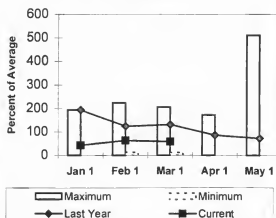
The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
 (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

St. Mary and Milk River Basins

Snowpack conditions in the St. Mary and Milk River Basins were below average. Snow water content in the Saint Mary River Basin was 89 percent of average and 68 percent of last year. The Bearpaw Mountains were 64 percent of average and 48 percent of last year. The Cypress Hills in Canada were 54 percent of average and 40 percent of last year.

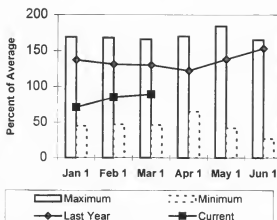
Bearpaw Mountains Snow Water Equivalent



Bearpaw - January maximum swe was established in 1978 and minimum swe was in 1981; February maximum swe was 1978 and minimum was in 1973; March maximum swe was 1978 and minimum swe was 1981; April maximum swe was in 1975 and minimum swe was in 1983; May maximum swe was 1975 and the minimum has occurred in several years. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

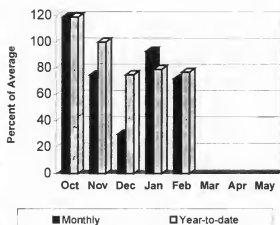
St. Mary - January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1988; February maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1992; May maximum swe was in 1992 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1991 and minimum swe was 1992. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

St. Mary Snow Water Equivalent

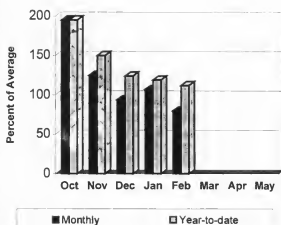


Mountain and valley precipitation in the St. Mary River Basin during February was 80 percent of average and 61 percent of last year with the water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, at 112 percent of average and 90 percent of last year. The Milk River Basin during February was 72 percent of average and 43 percent of last year with the water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, at 77 percent of average and 53 percent of last year.

Milk Precipitation



St. Mary Precipitation



Lake Sherburne storage was 91 percent of average and 168 percent of last year; Fresno storage was 72 percent of average and 85 percent of last year; Beaver Creek storage was 140 percent of average and 104 percent of last year; and Nelson storage was 108 percent of average and 107 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -1.1 for the Milk River.

ST. MARY and MILK RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<===== Drier =====>		Future Conditions		<===== Wetter =====>		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%	70%	Chance Of Exceeding *		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	50% (Most Probable) (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
LAKE SHERBURNE Inflow	APR-JUL	71	79	85	79	91	99	107
	APR-SEP	84	93	100	80	107	116	125
ST. MARY RIVER nr Babb (2)	APR-JUL	244	277	300	76	323	356	395
	APR-SEP	291	329	355	77	381	419	463
ST. MARY RIVER at US/CAN Border (2)	APR-JUL	264	312	345	75	378	426	462
	APR-SEP	324	378	415	77	452	506	539
ST. MARY RESERVOIR Inflow (2,3)	MAY-SEP	371		459	83		570	553
MILK RIVER at Western Crossing (3)	MAR-JUL	6.7	11.6	17.1	41	27	32	42
	MAR-SEP	8.3	12.5	18.3	40	29	37	46
MILK RIVER @ Milk River, AB (2,3)	MAR-JUL	12.2	19.2	35	54	37	49	64
	MAR-SEP	15.2	31	37	54	46	54	69
MILK RIVER at East Cross. (2,3)	MAR-JUL	15.4	28	43	51	39	65	85
	MAR-SEP	20	31	47	50	51	73	93
BEAVER CREEK near Havre	MAR-JUL	0.4	3.0	6.3	61	9.6	14.4	10.3

ST. MARY and MILK RIVER BASINS Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					ST. MARY and MILK RIVER BASINS Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
LAKE SHERBURNE	64.3	24.0	14.3	26.3	ST. MARY	3	68	89
FRESNO	127.0	37.5	44.0	52.0	BEARPAW MOUNTAINS	4	48	64
BEAVER CREEK	3.5	2.8	2.7	2.0	CYPRESS HILLS, CANADA	6	40	54
NELSON	66.8	38.3	35.7	35.3	MILK RIVER BASIN	9	45	62
					ST. MARY & MILK BASINS	13	60	79

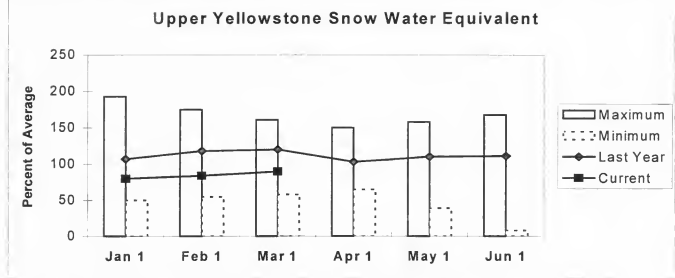
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The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedence levels.
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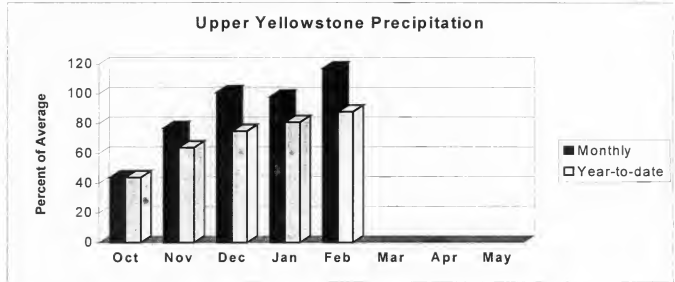
Upper Yellowstone River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Upper Yellowstone River Basin were below average. Snow water content was 90 percent of average and 75 percent of last year. Cole Creek was fifth lowest behind 1961, 1988, 1966, and 1993 respectively; Silver Run was fifth lowest behind 1981, 1982, 1990, and 1991 and 1988 respectively; Willow Creek was fifth lowest behind 1993, 1981, 1999, and 1988 and 1966.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1988; February maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1971 and minimum swe was in 1981; May maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1987; and June maximum swe was 1982 and minimum swe was in 1987 and 1994. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain precipitation during February was 113 percent of average and 79 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 198 percent of average and 405 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 88 percent of average and 74 percent of last year.



Mystic Lake storage was 90 percent of average and 111 percent of last year and Cooney storage was 118 percent of average and 116 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -1.1 in the Yellowstone River above Livingston; -2.9 in the Shields River; -1.4 in the Boulder River; -0.9 in the Stillwater River; -1.9 in the Rock/Red lodge Creeks; -0.6 in the Clarks Fork River; and -1.0 in the Yellowstone River above Bighorn River.

UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier =====>>		Future Conditions		===== Wetter =====>>		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%	70%	50% (Most Probable)		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
YELLOWSTONE at Lake Outlet	APR-JUL	302	384	440	77	496	578	573
	APR-SEP	413	524	600	76	676	787	792
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Corwin Spgs.	APR-JUL	1181	1306	1390	86	1474	1599	1609
	APR-SEP	1401	1549	1650	85	1751	1899	1937
YELLOWSTONE RIVER near Livingston	APR-JUL	1365	1505	1600	86	1695	1835	1855
	APR-SEP	1634	1798	1910	85	2022	2186	2241
SHIELDS RIVER nr Livingston	APR-JUL	35	77	105	65	133	175	162
	APR-SEP	39	87	120	67	153	201	179
BOULDER RIVER at Big Timber	APR-JUL	192	238	270	81	302	348	335
	APR-SEP	206	256	290	80	324	374	364
MYSTIC LAKE Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	47	53	58	94	62	68	61
	APR-SEP	63	70	75	95	80	87	79
STILLWATER RIVER nr Absarokee (2)	APR-JUL	331	396	440	88	484	549	498
	APR-SEP	401	472	520	88	568	639	593
CLARKS FORK RIVER nr Belfry	APR-JUL	410	464	500	94	536	590	532
	APR-SEP	457	512	550	93	588	643	590
COONEY RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	7.9	24	35	75	46	62	47
	APR-SEP	15.1	32	43	75	54	71	57
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Billings (2)	APR-JUL	2455	2878	3165	89	3452	3875	3577
	APR-SEP	3200	3504	3810	91	4116	4464	4211

UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
	Year	This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
MYSTIC LAKE	21.0	5.2	4.7	5.8	YELLOWSTONE ab LIVINGSTON	17	73	94
COONEY	27.4	18.1	15.6	15.4	SHIELDS	5	68	78
					BOULDER-STILLWATER	4	74	92
					CLARK'S FORK-ROCK CREEK	13	82	90
					UPPER YELLOWSTONE BASIN	35	75	90

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

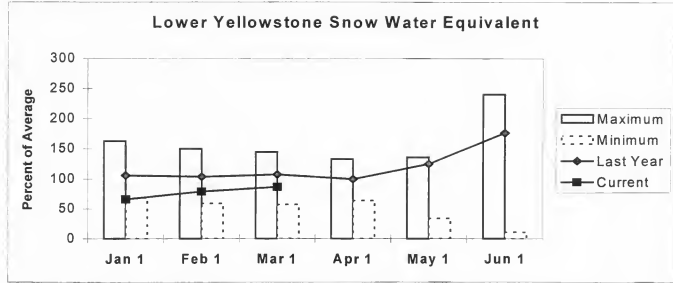
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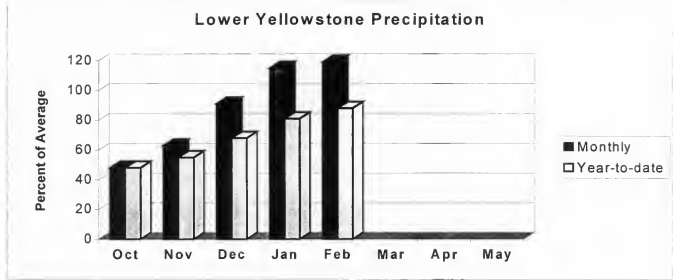
Lower Yellowstone River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Lower Yellowstone River Basin, in Wyoming, were below average. Snow water content was 87 percent of average and 76 percent of last year. In the Wind River Basin Hobbs Park was tied for the third lowest of record with 1977 the lowest and 1958 second lowest; St. Lawrence Alternate has set a new record low with 2.8" of snow water passing 1989 that had 3.8" snow water; and Townsend Creek was fourth lowest with 1977 number one, 1989 and 1981 second, and 1983 third lowest.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1981; February maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1981; March maximum swe was in 1986 and minimum swe was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1986 and minimum swe was in 1981; May maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1981; and June maximum swe was in 1995 and minimum swe was in 1994. Average is for the period 1961 through 1990.

Mountain and valley precipitation during February was 119 percent of average and 88 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 1999, was 88 percent of average and 67 percent of last year.



Bighorn Lake storage was 115 percent of average and 117 percent of last year and Tongue River storage was 122 percent of average and 469 percent of last year.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -0.4 in the Bighorn River below Bighorn Lake; -0.7 in the Little Bighorn River; -0.7 in the Yellowstone River below Bighorn River; -0.7 in the Tongue River; and -1.7 in the Powder River.

LOWER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2000

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<----- Drier ----->>		Future Conditions		----- Wetter ----->>		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%	70%	50% (Most Probable)		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF) (% AVG.)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Billings (2)	APR-JUL	2455	2878	3165	89	3452	3875	3577
	APR-SEP	3200	3504	3810	91	4116	4464	4211
BIGHORN RIVER nr St. Xavier (2)	APR-JUL	544	863	1080	66	1297	1616	1645
	APR-SEP	637	990	1230	69	1470	1823	1794
LITTLE BIGHORN RIVER nr Hardin	APR-JUL	60	90	110	79	130	160	140
	APR-SEP	71	103	125	80	147	179	157
TONGUE RIVER RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	100	154	190	83	226	280	230
	APR-SEP	121	177	215	84	253	309	256
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Miles City (2)	APR-JUL	2799	3723	4350	80	4977	5901	5431
	APR-SEP	3894	4501	5210	83	5919	6532	6281
POWDER RIVER at Moorehead	APR-JUL	30	91	132	63	173	234	211
	APR-SEP	43	105	147	63	189	251	232
POWDER RIVER near Locate	APR-JUL	63	115	150	60	185	237	252
	APR-SEP	54	120	165	60	210	276	276
YELLOWSTONE RIVER nr Sidney (2)	APR-JUL	2951	4022	4750	80	5478	6549	5925
	APR-SEP	3952	4675	5570	82	6465	7155	6814

LOWER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					LOWER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2000			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
BIGHORN LAKE	1356.0	935.3	800.2	810.4	WIND RIVER (Wyoming)	19	64	73
TONGUE RIVER	68.0	36.6	7.8	30.1	SHOSHONE RIVER (Wyoming)	7	66	87
					BIGHORN RIVER (Wyoming)	21	73	86
					LITTLE BIGHORN (Wyoming)	3	108	97
					TONGUE RIVER (Wyoming)	9	109	92
					POWDER RIVER (Wyoming)	9	95	86
					LOWER YELLOWSTONE BASIN (47	77		82

* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1961-1990 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
 (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.





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Montana
Basin Outlook Report
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Bozeman, MT

